

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 06955 171229Z

44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 DHA-02 ORM-02 DPW-01 OES-06

HEW-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 SP-02 /061 W

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R 170848Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1524

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 6955

E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: ICRC ACTIVITIES IN LEBANON

1. DR. W.F. BULLE, WHO RECENTLY JOINED ICRC GROUP IN LEBANON AS MEDICAL COORDINATOR, CALLED AT EMBASSY AUG 16. DR. BULLE, WHO IS AUSTRIAN CITIZEN, SAID HE WORKED 17 YEARS IN U.S. FOR LUTHERAN CHURCH, MISSOURI SYNOD, AND MENTIONED MR. MICHAEL ADLER OF AID AND DR. W. FOEGE OF CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL AS HIS "REFERENCES."

2. BULLE SAID ONE OF HIS PRIMARY TASKS WOULD BE MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT OF WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM IN BEIRUT. FOR THIS PURPOSE HE WAS TRYING TO RECRUIT, UNDER WHO AUSPICES, VALDES PINILLA, WHO RECENTLY COMPLETED A 14-MONTH STUDY OF BEIRUT WATER SUPPLY. HE ASKED THAT USG SUPPORT THIS REQUEST.

3. BULLE ALSO PROVIDED FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON OTHER ICRC ACTIVITIES SINCE HIS ARRIVAL THREE WEEKS AGO:

A. TELL ZAATAR EVACUATION. FINAL EVACUATION HAD BEEN CHAOTIC BECAUSE OF CHRISTIAN ATTACK. HE SAID MANY IN CAMP HAD BEEN SHOT BY ATTACKERS, INCLUDING EIGHT PALESTINIAN NURSES. ABOUT 100 FIGHTERS WERE STILL BEING
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 06955 171229Z

HELD PRISONER BY CHRISTIAN FORCES, AND ICRC WAS

ATTEMPTING SECURE THEIR RELEASE.

B. PALESTINIAN REFUGEES. PLO HANDLING OF REFUGEES FROM TELL ZAATAR WAS EFFICIENT AND WELL ORGANIZED. THOSE WHO WERE WELL ENOUGH WERE GIVEN LL75 EACH AND MOVED ON QUICKLY TO TEMPORARY HOUSING, INCLUDING CONFISCATED BEACH HOUSES SOUTH OF BEIRUT. THE SICK AND WOUNDED WERE SENT TO FIVE OR SIX HOSPITALS THAT HAD BEEN SET UP BETWEEN BEIRUT AND TYRE. THESE HOSPITALS WERE REASONABLY PTIIR OHYSD AND EQUIPPED, AND SPIRIT AND DOCTOR-PATIENT RELATIONS WERE EXCELLENT. FEW REFUGEES HAD BEEN SENT TO AUB BECAUSE OF HIGH CHARGES (WHICH ARAFAT RESENTS EVEN THOUGH PLO DOESN'T PAY) AND BECAUSE BRAIN, CHEST AND ABDOMINAL CASES WHICH NORMALLY GO TO AUH DID NOT SURVIVE TELL ZAATAR. BULLE SAID MOST REFUGEES WERE IN REASONABLY GOOD SHAPE NOW BUT WOULD BE SUFFERING FROM LACK OF CLOTHING AND HOUSING WHEN WINTER COMES.

C. IRAQI MEDICAL TEAM. AN IRAQI MEDICAL T

OF 22 HAD BEEN HELD UP IN CYPRUS OVER DISPUTE ABOUT WHERE THEY WOULD WORK. TEAM INCLUDED SIX NURSES AND SEVERAL HIGHLY-QUALIFIED SURGEONS. ICRC HAD BEEN TOLD TO FIND PLACES FOR THEM BUT THAT THEY WERE NOT TO TRRAT PALESTINIANS. AFTER INTERVENTION BY ARAFAT AND IRAQI AMBASSADOR, THIS INSTRUCTION HAD BEEN CHANGED, AND TEAM WAS NOW EXPECTED TO ARRIVE BY SHIP WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS TO WORK IN SEVERAL BEIRUT AREA HOSPITALS.

D. ICRC TRANSPORTATION. FOLLOWING MOST RECENT SHELLING OF BEIRUT AIRPORT, CHARTER AIRLINE FLYING ICRC PLANE TO BEIRUT HAD REFUSED TO CONTINUE. ICRC IS NOW LOOKING FOR ANOTHER CARRIER. IN MEANTIME, ICRC HAS ARRANGED A BOAT THAT WILL TRAVEL REGULARLY BETWEEN LARNACA, SIDON, JOUNIEH AND TRIPOLI.

E. ICRC ORGANIZATION. ICRC HAS STAFF OF ABOUT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 06955 171229Z

40 WORKING ON LEBANON, INCLUDING REPS IN LARNACA, JOUNIEH AND TRIPOLI. ONLY AMERICAN IS DR. PAT MARSHIO, WHO HAD BEEN IN DENMARK AND WAS SPONSORED BY NORDIC AID GROUP. DIRECTOR HOEFLIGER IS DEPARTING FOR GENEVA THIS WEEK FOR MEETING ON LEBANON AND SHORT VACATION. HE IS DUE BACK IN ABOUT FOUR WEEKS.
HUNT

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